

City of Aberdeen
Business Meeting, Work Session
September 8, 2014

Present: Mayor Bennett, Councilwoman Elliott, Councilman Garner,
Councilwoman Landbeck, and Councilwoman Young

Absent: None

Also Present: Douglas Miller, City Manager
Phyllis Grover, Director of Planning and Community Development
Lt. Frederick Budnick, Aberdeen Police Department
Wesley Wagner, Director of APG Privatization
Monica Correll, City Clerk
Doris Manner, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers by Mayor Bennett.

Matters of Immediate and Urgent Business

a. HUD Consolidated Plan

Ms. Elizabeth Meadows, Harford County Government, Community Development Coordinator, reported on the 2014 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report to HUD (CAPER) for Harford County. Many projects listed in the report are still open and additional funding for particular projects need to be proved by increased demand. Her department is required to follow federal mandates. The report consisted of a combined expenditure of federal funds in the amount of \$1,173,465 in CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) and home program funding for housing/community development needs for low to moderate income families.

She noted that Aberdeen's Mt. Royal Avenue project received \$40,000 in previous years' allocation funding for sidewalk, crosswalk, school zone signs and handicapped ramps for enhanced pedestrian use. Additionally, five first-time homes were awarded to families through Habitat for Humanity and Inner County Outreach. The Tabernacle of Faith Family Life Center served 185 people with a financial literacy program. The Harford Community Action Agency Eviction Prevention Program helped 91 people.

b. Bid Award; Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) Well Project

Mr. Miller explained that the City owns and operates the APG water treatment facilities. Currently, water to APG is supplied by the Chapel Hill facility scheduled to be phased out. Water will then be provided from a well field, treated in Building 250, and then pushed out through a distribution system. APG wants the City to operate Building 250 and has also asked the City to direct the design and implementation of the project. Testing, monitoring and production wells are required for the project, therefore, bids were collected.

A. C. Schultes of Maryland, Inc. had the lowest total bid at \$2,172,900. Mr. Wagner explained that they have completed other projects and have a good reputation. The project is federally funded.

A motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilwoman Landbeck and Councilwoman Young to award the Test, Monitoring and Production Well Contract No. APG-WTP #12-16.1 to A. C. Schultes of Maryland, Inc. in the total amount of \$2,172,900 for Building No. 250 (water treatment plant) on Aberdeen Proving Ground.

The motion was passed with a vote of 5 - yes.

c. Re-allocation of Unexpended Funds

1. FY 14 Paving Project

Mr. Miller asked the Council to re-allocate unexpended funds in the amount of \$1,800,000 from FY14 to use for toward unfinished paving during FY15. \$3 million had been appropriated in 2014, of which \$1,820,000 was spent. Highway user funds, BRAC funds, and block grant money will also help with these expenses. The sanitary and stormwater systems will also need repairs for certain streets.

Council discussion followed concerning the paving schedule. Mr. Miller explained that there are more paving needs than money. It was anticipated that approximately 40 streets will be finished before the end of the fiscal year (June 31, 2015).

A motion was made by Councilwoman Landbeck and seconded by Councilwoman Young to approve the Re-allocation of Unexpended Funds from the FY14 Fund Balance to FY15 for Paving Projects in the amount of \$1,180,000.

The motion was passed with a vote of 5 - yes.

2. Replacement of Phone System: Mr. Miller said that the capital payment for the new phone system was made in FY14 and installation of the new system was scheduled this month.

3. Installation of Cameras

Mr. Miller asked to re-appropriate \$19,200 unspent funds from the FY14 budget for the installation of street cameras to be combined with the current FY15 amount of \$19,200 to create a total of \$38,400 to be used toward camera installation.

A motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilwoman Young to approve the re-appropriation of \$19,000 from the FY 14 Budget to the FY 15 Budget for Installation of Cameras for the Police Department.

The motion was passed with a vote of 5 - yes.

Work Session (4:31 p.m.)

a. IBD (Integrated Business District) Recommendations from the Planning Commission

Ms. Grover reviewed the IBD recommendations from the Planning Commission. A final draft should be available in October. It is currently being reviewed by the Architectural Review Committee. Some of the Planning Commission recommendations for the IBD included: amending building setbacks, height requirements, facing of buildings, parking and loading requirements, dumpster requirements, and types of development. She explained that a gourmet market differs from a supermarket because of the amount of square footage involved.

b. MML (Maryland Municipal League) Legislative Priorities

Mr. Miller noted that the Legislative Conference of the Maryland Municipal League will meet in Annapolis soon. Mayor Bennett reported that the Legislative Committee voted to focus on the full restoration of highway user revenues to municipalities, revision to municipal ethics requirements, and clarification of land use comprehensive master plan adoption procedures. The Legislation Committee asked the staff to review double taxation issues.

The Committee anticipates a minimum of 31% turnover in the Maryland House of Delegates and 21% in the Maryland Senate. They will inform new senators and delegates on the priorities of MML and MaCo (Maryland Association of Counties).

Mayor Bennett said that there will be a MML Fall Conference, September 10 - 13, to include workshops and forums. Governor O'Malley will be made an Honorary Member of Maryland Municipal League. There will be MML Chapter Dinners held in December and January and bi-weekly Legislative Committee meetings starting in January until the end of the legislature session.

c. Aberdeen Police Department Pension Buy-In

Mr. Miller said that most employees are under the Defined Contribution Retirement Plan, whereas, sworn officers of the Aberdeen Police Department have a Defined Benefit Program (pension). A proposed amendment to the APD pension plan, presented at earlier work session, may incur cost to the City under certain circumstances. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

Lt. Budnick reported on the road closures and activities resulting from a film crew using the American Legion and Aberdeen Fire Department.

d. Green Team Recruitment

Mr. Miller reported that the City is working for certification toward the Sustainable Maryland Program and will create a Green Team.

Other Business:

Mr. Miller recognized City Clerk Monica Correll for obtaining her Master Municipal Clerk designation. He said that there are only seven people with this honor in Maryland and only three of those designated are active.

Other points noted:

- The Franklin Street demolition has begun.
- The demolition for the property on Long Drive just needs the lead paint abatement certificates to be supplied to the City.
- The Moose property offer has been accepted and the City Attorney is preparing a contract.
- The State Highway Administration has only one house left for demolition on Route 22 which has been delayed by an asbestos issue.

Announcements:

September 8; Work Session (4:00 p.m.)

September 11-13; MML Fall Conference

September 20; Chamber of Commerce Community Yard Sale

September 22; Work Session - Cancelled

September 29; Council Meeting (7:00 p.m.)

October 13; Work Session (4:00 p.m.)

October 20; Work Session (4:00 p.m.)

October 27; Council Meeting (7:00 p.m.)

Adjournment: Being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:59 p.m.